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PROBLEMS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

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(From the proceedings of the Plenary Session of the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health USSR, 1959)

In June 1958 the Plenary Session of the Academic Medical Council of the Ministry of Health of the Republic was held, during which were presented and discussed the report of the chairman of the Academic Council, Prof. D. F. Chebotareva, "On the Development of Medico-Scientific Research in the UkrSSR and its Introduction into Public Health Practice and the Training of Scientific Personnel;" the report of the chairman of the Commission for Problems of Public Health Organizations and History of Medicine, Docent K. F. Duplenko, "On the Coordination of Scientific Research Institutes with Public Health Practice;" the report of the chairman of the Soviet Union Scientific Historical Medical Society, Prof. M. I. Barsukova, "Problems of Theory and History of Medicine in the Light of Decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU;" the report of Prof. I. A. Polishchuk "On the Status and Problems of the Medico-Scientific Society of the USSR;" the report of Prof. M. K. Dalya "Concerning Publications by Specialists and Scientific Research Institutes;" and *[the report of]* the Director of the State Medical Publishing House of the USSR, Deputy A. P. Rozdayevskiy, "Concerning the Work of the State Medical Publishing House of the Ministry of Health USSR."

A feature of the present Plenary Session is that not only the scientific societies of the Republic but also the personnel of the departments of the Ministry took an active part in its work. With respect to the first three problems, the Plenary Session passed a resolution with a view towards furthering the development of medical sciences in the Republic, introducing the findings of scientific research into public health practice and improving the train-

ing of scientific personnel.

It should be stressed that the Academic Council and its work problem committees directed the carrying out of the historical decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU, implementing a series of important organizational measures for furthering the development of medical sciences.

The Academic Council, a very active organization, organizes and directs scientific research, widely coordinating research in institutes in related fields and that in establishments of other departments.

The Plenary Session approved of the active work and high-quality organization of scientific research concerning the problems "Tuberculosis and the Fight Against It," "Hygiene in Populated Areas," "Prophylaxis and Group Medicine," "Labor Hygiene in Leading Areas of Industry and Rural Economy," "Dysentery and the Fight Against It," etc.

For a number of other problems there were also quite a number of valuable reports. To our regret, however, few of them covered extensive research. A number of research committees and Academic Council institutes, despite important improvement of their activities, do not yet give sufficient attention to combined single-minded planning. The scientific subjects of the chairmen of the sections and laboratories in many cases is divided into small, unrelated, uncoordinated problems whose implementation affords no tangible benefit to either the theory or the practice of public health. In setting up plans, insufficient consideration is still taken of problems concerning public health practice.

The Plenary Council approved and recommended taking broader advantage of the active planning method, envisioning a subordination of the direction of scientific research to the needs of public health practice and to the development of the theory of medical science. It is also necessary to have a broader coordination and correlation between establishments in related fields, which will favor the concentration of efforts on the solution of the primary tasks of the Seven-Year Health Plan -- of furthering the reduction of morbidity and mortality from various diseases in the Republic.

It was proposed that problems of labor hygiene for juveniles and women, as well as of rational public nutrition for the various age and professional groups in the population, be worked out in detail.

With respect to the problem of malignant neoplasms it is necessary to give much attention to the questions of early diagnosis, prophylactic measures, finding new methods of tumor therapy and elaborating on theoretic problems.

With respect to the problem of "Acute Infections of Childhood," it was decided to expand considerably the working out of epidemiologic problems, of the pathogenesis and therapy of measles, and of trends in the synthesis of medicinal preparations. It is necessary to employ modern methods of the physical, chemical and other sciences.

New construction and the perfection of devices, instruments and apparatuses must be encouraged.

The Plenary Session was charged by the Presidium of the Academic Council to devise concrete measures for the establishment of conditions for scientific research in medical institutes of higher learning and to implement these decisions.

Specifically the organization of scientific research laboratories in medical institutes and the creation of separate creative groups for working out present-day scientific and practical problems is envisaged; this simultaneously raises the problem of increasing auxiliary teaching personnel.

The channelling of major construction into the planning and construction of new hospital clinics, locations for scientific research laboratories, and rooms for instruction was recommended.

The Plenary Session approved the plan of the organization of 20 new laboratories in scientific research institutes and of enlarging the existing ones during 1959. It also approved the construction of four new institutes (experimental and clinical oncology; poliomyelitis and biology; surgery; antibiotics), as well as the construction of a new building for a chemical sanitation institute.

The Presidium of the Academic Council suggested involving concrete measures for coordinating medical research within scientific establishments in the Peoples' Democracies, and also for stimulating many of our teachers to participate in the work of international congresses, conferences and symposia.

Much attention was given to organizing the practical implementation in medical establishments of the findings of scientific research. During the last two years, the Academic Council drew up yearly preliminary plans for the Republic on the basis of plans for the introduction of institutes. The need for the requirement of approval by the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health USSR of all systematic writing and instruction before their promulgation in institutes was emphasized.

The Plenary Session recommended improvements in the selection of completed scientific papers for inclusion in the preliminary plan for the Republic: to increase the role

of authors, management of departmental organization systems, of suitable institutes, as well as of section management in the Ministry of Health USSR for organizing the introduction scientific research findings into public health practice. It is necessary to accelerate the building and organization of experimental construction material and of departments for the manufacture of new supplies of medicinal preparations for clinical trial.

The Plenary Session emphasized that the practical implementation of scientific research and inventions remains a labor-consuming problem and needs constant attention from various aspects.

Several things have been achieved in the training of doctors and candidates of science. Specifically the number of dissertations by younger people was increased. Nevertheless, there are still many unsolved problems. Unhappily that is how matters stand in the achievements of doctors of science.

The Plenary Session of the Academic Council necessarily payed special attention to details of character in the achievements of doctors and candidates of science. Creative presentations for the final doctoral and candidatorial dissertations must be encouraged, in order to offer the best conditions for creative work.

The Academic Council supervises a card file of each current dissertation, from which the course of the fulfillment of the work is controlled, and data concerning the achievements of scientific personnel are analysed for the individual students working in the Republic for a number of years.

During 1959-1960 reports on these problems will be given to the Republic by instructors in the various institutions and directors of the chair.

Much attention was given to the aid of institutes with associated medical establishments. To reinforce these important activities, the Plenary Session recommended to the directors of the institutes that they consolidate the organizational-methods sections existing in these States and charge them with the responsibility of organizing the introduction of scientific achievements into public health practice, as well as to intensify working out scientifically the statistical, historical and organizational problems of public health in related institutes. A desire to organize the training of personnel for such sections at the Kiev Institute for the Advanced Training of Physicians was stated.

The Plenary Session called upon all physicians of the Republic to participate actively in the implementation

of one of the central plans decided on by the 21st Congress of the CPSU regarding communist education of the Soviet people. Measures were planned regarding ideologic theory education of medical students and physicians who are to undertake historical research, to verse themselves in the Marxist-Leninist outlook and to train themselves for active participation in the construction of a communist society.

In scientific research institutes fundamental attention should be given to working out problems of the history of the Sessions and their principal problems, the history of institutes, scientific schools, contributions, admission to medico-scientific schools in the Ukraine, etc.

For this purpose it was recommended to the directors of medical institutes of higher learning that they reinforce the chairs of public health organization of the history of medicine, and that they appear before the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health USSR to offer suggestions on problems of bringing programs for teaching the history of medicine into closer contact with the study of the problem of developing national medicine.

The Plenary Council considered the question of the activities of medico-scientific societies. It was noted that they revitalized their activities considerably in the last two to three years. Currently there are 457 medico-scientific societies in the Republic, uniting over 26,000 physicians and scientific investigators.

Much work is done by societies of hygiene, surgery, therapeutics, anatomy, histology and embryology, microbiology, epidemiology and infectious disease, stomatology, otolaryngology, and pediatrics.

As yet the society of urology is only slightly active. The society of physiotherapy expects to increase its activities. Nonetheless the practical work of the boards of several societies in the Republic, with special regard to the guidance of regional societies of specialists, are already under way.

Fundamental attention is given to the inadmissibility of poor organization of the medico-scientific societies (YeNMO) in areas of the Republic. This problem is recognized especially in Stalinskaya, Luganskaya, Sumskaya, Kievskaya, Odesskaya and other oblasts.

The Plenary Session of the Academic Council charged the Presidium jointly with the administration of the societies of the Republic to organize specialists' societies or specialists' sections of YeNMO in all the central oblasts during the years 1959 to 1960, and to register them officially.

The Plenary Session charged the Minister of Health

USSR, Deputy P. L. Shupik, to make it incumbent upon the sections of public health to organize the YeNMO in all central areas.

It was recommended that during their board meetings the societies give a hearing to accounts concerning scientific research by their members and reports on the activities of medical establishments from the major specialists; that they conduct widespread review and investigational work and organize discussions on specialized medical subjects; that they give frequent hearings to arguments by the session and by members for more assistance to local societies; that they promulgate more extensively propaganda of medical knowledge among the population, together with the societies for the dissemination of political and scientific knowledge and home sanitation education.

A representative meeting of all medico-scientific societies was planned for sharing experiences for the following year.

To improve the promulgation of medical literature in the Republic, the Presidium of the Academic Council, together with the Ukrainian Medical Publishing House, proposed appointing the best authors to prepare the most important papers in the fundamental medical disciplines for publication during the following three to four years. The ruling was adopted that the printing of collections of scientific papers of scientific societies and public health establishments will take place only after their approval by the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health USSR.

Scientific research and medical institutes received recommendations to participate in the planning of scientific essays for textbooks for high-level and medium-level medical institutes of higher learning, guidance and broad general work on the basic disciplines and the main questions on the theory and practice of medicine.

The Plenary Council considered it expedient in the preparation of scientific work for publication to aim mainly at monothematic collections in which the work of several institutes is united.

The sessions of Soviet teaching institutes conduct the required approval for manuscripts when the contributions are prepared for publication.

Medico-scientific societies must therefore be enlisted widely for approving scientific papers, for reviewing activities and for popularizing medical journals being issued in the USSR. In the opinion of the participants of the Plenary Session, the journal "Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology" should be divided into two independent journals, and the journal "Prophylactic Medicine" should

be revived.

The preparation and publication of informative systematic instructions concerning questions of requirements, presentation and official registration of collections of work, essays, theses, etc. is planned.

The Plenary Session of the Academic Council of the Ministry of Health USSR broached the question of a superior ideological and workmanship-like level of work. All educational institutes of the Republic and leading personnel of the Ministry participated actively in its work.

Critical observations and constructive suggestions were allowed to be pronounced. Their implementation will further promote the development of scientific research in the USSR and the solution of problems of public health, posed by the 21st Congress of the CPSU in its Seven-Year Plan for the Development of the Socialist Motherland.

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